

THE AVAILABILITY OF REHABILITATION SERVICES AND ITS IMPACT ON THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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ABSTRACT

Children with developmental disabilities often demonstrate impairments in various domains such as cognition, physical, learning, or behavior beginning from early childhood. The presence of a developmental disability is also likely to have serious consequences on the child's quality of life (QOL). These children often require rehabilitative services (e.g., physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and psychology services) that are aimed at improving their QOL from a very young age. The purpose of the study was to investigate the impact of rehabilitation services on the quality of life of children with developmental disability in Malaysia. This was a cross-sectional study that was conducted via an online survey. The participants of this study were parents of children (i) aged 5-12 years old, (ii) who have an OKU card, and (iii) diagnosed with learning disability according to the classification listed by Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat. The findings of this study indicated that all respondents were receiving at least one rehabilitation service. Most parents were satisfied with the quality of rehabilitation services received by their children and felt that the rehabilitation services received improved their child's quality of life. However, there was no correlation between the number of rehabilitation services received and the child's quality of life scores as reported by parents. Findings of this study highlight the importance of increasing parents' awareness about the availability and importance of rehabilitation services for their children.

Keywords: Rehabilitation Services for Children, Quality of Life, Children with Disability, Developmental Disability.